

## **REMARKS**

Claims 30-36, 39-41, 51-69 and 71-117 are pending in the application. Claims 39-41, 53-58, 61-62, 74-79, 82-83, 95-100, 103-104 and 116-117 have been withdrawn from consideration after an election of species by the applicant. Claims 30-36, 51-52, 59-60, 63-69, 71-73, 80-81, 84-94, 101-102 and 105-115 have been rejected. No claims have been allowed. Claims 30, 52, 63, 73, 84, 94 and 108 have been amended herein and claims 51, 59, 71, 72, 80, 92, 93 and 101 have been canceled. Because the rejection in this application has been made final, a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) accompanies this response. Reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 30-36, 59, 60, 63-69, 80, 81, 84-92, 101, 102, and 105-115 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quijano et al. (5500014) in view of Richter et al '734. In response, the applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The reasons why the rejection should be withdrawn are set forth in the applicants' previously submitted remarks in this application and are hereby incorporated by reference. However, in order to advance the prosecution of the application, the applicants have amended the independent claims 30, 63, 84 and 108. Each of the independent claims now recite that the vascular prosthetic is joined by stitches that form a smooth inner lumen. Also, claims 30, 84 and 108 now recite a luminal angle of less than about 30 degrees and claim 63 now recites an angled slice of less than about 15 degrees. The construction including stitches that provide a smooth inner lumen in combination with a luminal angle of less than about 30 degrees provides the vascular prosthetic with passageways which permit uniform blood flow through the valves so that proper operation of the valves is preserved in the joined lumens. The remaining claims in the application depend from the amended independent claims and are also believed to be patentable over the art of record in the application. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 30-36, 60, 63-69, 80, 81, 84-91, 102, and 105-115, as amended, is respectfully requested.

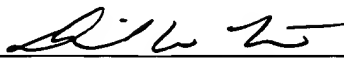
Claims 51, 52, 72, 73, 93 and 94 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quijano et al '014 in view of Richter et al '734 as applied to claim 30 and further in view of Ehrenfeld (5156619). In response, the applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The reasons why the rejection should be withdrawn are set forth in the applicants' previously submitted remarks in this application and are hereby incorporated by reference. However, in order to advance the prosecution of the application, the applicants have amended the independent claims 30, 63, 84 and 108 as set forth in the paragraph immediately above and have canceled rejected claims 51, 72 and 93. Claims 52, 73 and 94 depend from the amended independent claims and are therefore believed to be patentable over the art of record in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 52, 73 and 94 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 71 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quijano et al '014 in view of Richter et al '734 as applied in claim 63 and further in view of Mobin-Uddin (5078735). In response, the applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The reasons why the rejection should be withdrawn are set forth in the applicants' previously submitted remarks in this application and are hereby incorporated by reference. However, in order to advance the prosecution of the application, the applicants have canceled rejected claim 71.

The amendment and remarks herein are believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 30-36, 52, 60, 63-69, 73, 80, 81, 84-91, 94, 102, and 105-115, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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